

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David Bennett on 4/7/08.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 21 (Cancelled).

Claim 29 (Cancelled).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 3, 6-13, 15-20, 24-28, and 32-35 are allowable over the prior art.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 is allowed because the closest prior art Altilio (Patent No.: 5,898,363) in view of Naruki (Patent No.: 4,450,495) and/or Steiger (Pub. No.: US 2004/0244566) in view of Vanga II (Patent No.: 5,753,838), either alone or in combination, fail to anticipate or render obvious a mobile device wherein the attachment member comprises a support bar disposed in the opening and spaced from the housing to enable a spring clip disposed on one end of the external strap to extend between the support bar and the housing as defined in the specification, in combination, with all other limitations in the claim(s) as defined by applicant.

Claim 13 is allowed because the closest prior art Steiger (Pub. No.: US 2004/0244566) in view of Vanga II (Patent No.: 5,753,838), either alone or in combination, fail to anticipate or

render obvious a method of outputting audible signals from a mobile device comprising placing an attachment member in the opening for attaching an external strap to the mobile device, wherein placing the attachment member in the opening comprises spanning the attachment member across the opening of the recessed acoustic port and spaced with respect to a back portion of the recessed acoustic port a sufficient amount to enable a spring clip disposed on one end of the external strap to extend between the support bar and the back portion of the recessed acoustic port, as defined in the specification, in combination, with all other limitations in the claim(s) as defined by applicant.

Claim 16 is allowed because the closest prior art, Altilio (Patent No.: 5,898,363) in view of Naruki (Patent No.: 4,450,495) and/or Steiger (Pub. No.: US 2004/0244566) in view of Vanga II (Patent No.: 5,753,838), either alone or in combination, fail to anticipate or render obvious a mobile device comprising at least one of a cellular telephone, a personal data assistant, a pager, and a personal communication system comprising wherein the attaching bar is spaced with respect to the port such that an open area around the attaching bar is of sufficient size to allow a spring clip disposed on one end of the external strap to extend between the attaching bar and the housing; and a communication circuit disposed within the housing for transmitting and receiving communication signals as defined in the specification, in combination, with all other limitations in the claim(s) as defined by applicant.

Claim 25 is allowed because the closest prior art, Altilio (Patent No.: 5,898,363) in view of Naruki (Patent No.: 4,450,495) and/or Steiger (Pub. No.: US 2004/0244566) in view of Vanga II (Patent No.: 5,753,838), either alone or in combination, fail to anticipate or render obvious a mobile device comprising at least one of a cellular telephone, a personal data assistant, a pager,

Art Unit: 2617

and a personal communication system, comprising transmitting means for transmitting and receiving communication signals, as defined in the specification, in combination, with all other limitations in the claim(s) as defined by applicant.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARIVELISSE SANTIAGO-CORDERO whose telephone number is (571)272-7839. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Trost can be reached on (571) 272-7872. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/William Trost/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617

/MARIVELISSE SANTIAGO-CORDERO/
Examiner, Art Unit 2617